

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 21, 22, 24-32, 34-37 and 63-100 without prejudice to presentation in a divisional or continuing application.

Please amend claims 38, 39, 45-47, 50, 53 and 54 as follows
(all claims are shown for ease of reference):

21. canceled

22. canceled

24.-32. canceled

34.-37. canceled

38. (Amended) A mat comprising a fabric layer and a rubber backing layer bonded together, in which the rubber backing layer has an integral peripheral region that extends beyond the fabric layer, and a thickness of said integral peripheral region increases progressively from an inner edge of said region towards an outer edge of said region.

39. (Amended) A mat according to claim 38, wherein the thickness of said integral peripheral region approximately doubles from said inner edge of said region to said outer edge of said region.

40. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a pile fabric.
41. A mat according to claim 40, wherein the fabric layer includes a tufted pile.
42. A mat according to claim 41, wherein the tufted pile is cut, looped or both.
43. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a synthetic fibre.
44. A mat according to claim 43, wherein the synthetic fibre includes polyamide, polyester, polypropylene or a blend of two or more of those fibers.
45. (Amended) A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer comprises at least one of a natural fibre or viscose.
46. (Amended) A mat according to claim 45, wherein the natural fibre comprises cotton.
47. (Amended) A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer has a weight in the range 300-1200g/m².
48. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer includes a woven or non-woven substrate.
49. A mat according to claim 48, wherein the substrate includes polyester or polypropylene.

50. (Amended) A mat according to claim 48, wherein the substrate has a density in the range 70-300g/m².
51. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the rubber backing layer includes a natural or synthetic rubber material.
52. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes a nitrile or SBR rubber material, or a blend of those rubber materials.
53. (Amended) A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a hardness in the range 35-75 IRHD.
54. (Amended) A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer at all locations including said integral peripheral region has a thickness in the range 0.5-3.0mm.
55. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes surface formations in the form of raised projections and/or indentations.
56. A mat according to claim 55, wherein the surface formations provide cleats, a pattern and/or a logo.
57. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer includes perforations.
58. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has rounded corners.

59. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a concave edge.
60. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a clean edge.
61. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the integral peripheral region has a width of approximately 2cm.
62. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the dimensions of the mat are approximately 120cm x 80cm.
63. - 100. canceled

Please insert new claims 101-105 into the application as follows:

101. A mat according to claim 38, wherein the fabric layer has a weight of approximately 640g/m².
102. A mat according to claim 48, wherein the substrate has a density of approximately 100g/m².
103. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a hardness of approximately 60 IRHD.
104. A mat according to claim 51, wherein the rubber backing layer has a thickness of approximately 1.01mm.

105. A mat comprising:

a fabric layer;

a rubber backing connected to the fabric layer, said rubber backing layer comprising an integral peripheral region that extends outwardly from and beyond the fabric layer, said integral peripheral region defining a thickness that increases progressively from an inner edge of said region located adjacent said fabric layer toward an outer edge of said region that defines an outermost peripheral edge of said mat.